



7.2 Local Plan Integration

Requirement: §201.4(c)(4)(ii): The section must include a) description of the State process and timeframe by which the local plans will be reviewed, coordinated, and linked to the State Mitigation Plan.

Update Requirement §201.4(d): Plan must be reviewed and revised to reflect changes in development, progress in statewide mitigation efforts and changes in priorities...

As of November 2007, ADEM's coordination of the local plans has resulted in approved plans for all counties, 79 of 90 local jurisdictions and 8 of 20 Indian tribes with land/infrastructure. We anticipate approved plans for the remaining local jurisdictions and interested Indian tribes no later than the end of 2009.

It is our goal and directed by the DMA2K, to ensure that our local hazard mitigation plans reflect the priorities in this Plan, including future updates. However, not all local plans included all the information that was necessary to accomplish that goal. In addition, only three of our 15 counties developed multi-jurisdictional mitigation plans. The remaining counties developed plans that included its' unincorporated communities, but did not necessarily focus on the incorporated areas. The incorporated communities of the other 12 counties developed stand-alone plans. This method of planning made it difficult and time consuming to review and integrate information. However, our efforts resulted in the addition of several useful pieces of information, which will be added to and improved upon in future updates. Therefore, based on local planning having been done up until now, it is likely to take several years before the State and local plans are properly integrated and linked together, sharing the same direction.

To ensure future success in this area, we intend to:

- Link pertinent information to this Plan as new information is available or new plans are approved;
- Urge the local jurisdictions and counties to develop multi-jurisdictional mitigation plans by;
 - Notification/education of the benefits through the mitigation newsletter and other outreach activities.
 - Use the quarterly county emergency managers meeting to provide the latest requirements, guidance publications, lessons learned by ADEM and encourage the development of multi-jurisdictional plans.
- Offer plan coordination and technical assistance to local jurisdictions;
- Distribute the State Plan to all county emergency managers and make available to all local jurisdictions immediately following approval from FEMA; and
- Encourage use of the framework used for this Plan to allow smooth integration with the State Plan.

Due to the challenges discussed at the beginning of this section, we are unsure of the future use of MitigationPlan.com for plan integration and linking at this time. We continue to work with the developer to determine if they are able and/or willing to consider adding the functionality we have asked for.

The local plan review process will be performed using the most recent FEMA crosswalk to review hard copies of the local plans within one month of submission to ADEM. All Plan sections will be reviewed to ensure requirements are met as well as its consistency with the State Plan. The linking with the State Plan will occur with three months of the Plan's approval by FEMA. The ADEM Mitigation Office will be responsible for these tasks.

For the purpose of this update, the following steps were taken to integrate information from local plans:

The local mitigation plans were reviewed and provided information initially documented in the Community Descriptions - Section 4 of this Plan, including but not limited to:

- Historic Record of Disaster Events
- Hazard Mitigation Strategy
 - Top Ranking Hazards & Actions
- Other Planning Mechanisms

In addition, most Counties provided information via a survey on their Mitigation Strategy Progress discussing the status of actions they have started implementing.



In the Risk Assessment – Section 5 of this Plan, the “Summary of Local Risk Assessment” tables were populated with the information extracted from local plans. However, in several cases data was not readily available due to the counties’ lack of recognition of the hazards profiled in this Plan.

As more jurisdictions’ plans get submitted for approval and as we continue to learn from the update process, we plan to continue to review local mitigation plans for the following information (just to mention a few):

- to ensure hazards and risks are evaluated in a manner similar to that used to develop the State Plan;
- to ensure State Plan information is used, where appropriate, during the development of local plans;
- continue to utilize the local Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategy information to shape the State Plan to more accurately reflect the State’s current situation;
- Mitigation Strategy progress to determine jurisdictions that may need assistance from the State.